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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 271336Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6927
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2498
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 4931
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1585
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 1253
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1137
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0311
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/HSE/CCJ5//

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000141

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [KFLU](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: WEEKLY FOLLOW-UP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

REFTEL: A) ASHGABAT 48
B) ASHGABAT 1375
C) ASHGABAT 1335
D) ASHGABAT 82 AND PREVIOUS
E) ASHGABAT 153802

Sensitive But Unclassified; Not for Internet Distribution

¶1. PER REFTEL E, POST PROVIDES A WEEKLY FOLLOW-UP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA.

INVESTIGATION INTO MYSTERIOUS BIRD DEATHS

¶2. (SBU) ON JANUARY 20, A SOURCE AT THE MOH TOLD USAID'S HEALTH PROJECT SPECIALIST THAT CHIEF OF SANITARY AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICE LEYLA SHAMURADOVA MADE VISITS TO MARY, LEBAP AND BALKAN WELAYATS TO INVESTIGATE THE MASS DEATH OF CHICKENS. THE VISITS' OUTCOME WAS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

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GOTX'S SMALL STEPS FORWARD

¶3. (SBU) THE MOH IS INVENTORYING LOCAL HOSPITALS' SUPPLIES OF PLAGUE PROTECTIVE GEAR FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF AN AI OUTBREAK OR QUARANTINE. ADDITIONALLY, THE MOH PLANS TO IMPORT ENZYME TEST KITS AND TO SUPPLY LOCAL PHARMACIES WITH NASAL OINTMENT TO PREVENT AN AI OUTBREAK. ON JANUARY 27, THE MOH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IS ORGANIZING AN AI MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL DONORS. EMBASSY EXPECTS THE MOH WILL REQUEST DONOR SUPPORT FOR A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON THE RISKS OF AI. ON JANUARY 29, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AI WILL CONVENE FOR A CLOSED SESSION. INTERNATIONAL DONORS ARE NOT INVITED.

INADEQUATE AND UNDERFUNDED EFFORTS

¶4. (SBU) THE LOCAL WHO OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE TOLD

USAID'S HEALTH SPECIALIST THAT A POOR UNDERSTANDING OF AI HAS LED TO AN INADEQUATE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN. (NOTE: USAID HAS NOT REVIEWED THE PLAN, BUT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE A COPY IMMINENTLY. END NOTE.) ADDITIONALLY, THE VETERINARIAN LABORATORY DESIGNATED TO TEST FOR AI (REF B) STILL DOES NOT HAVE TEST KITS, AND THE MOH'S TURKMEN-LANGUAGE BROCHURES ON AI NEED DONOR FUNDING TO COVER PHOTOCOPYING EXPENSES.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS CONTINUE

¶5. (U) ON JANUARY 26, A UN AI THEME GROUP MEETING WAS CONVENED. THE WHO DISTRIBUTED A DRAFT WORK PLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL AI RESPONSE.

COMMENT

¶6. (SBU) THE GOTX'S SMALL STEPS FORWARD ARE ENCOURAGING, BUT SOLICITATION OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS TO FUND UNILATERAL -- NOT COORDINATED BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL - PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND INFORMATION SHARING DOES NOT INITIATE THE GOTX INTO THE LEAGUE OF COUNTRIES WORKING COOPERATIVELY TO STOP OR LIMIT A POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL AI PANDEMIC. END COMMENT.

JACOBSON